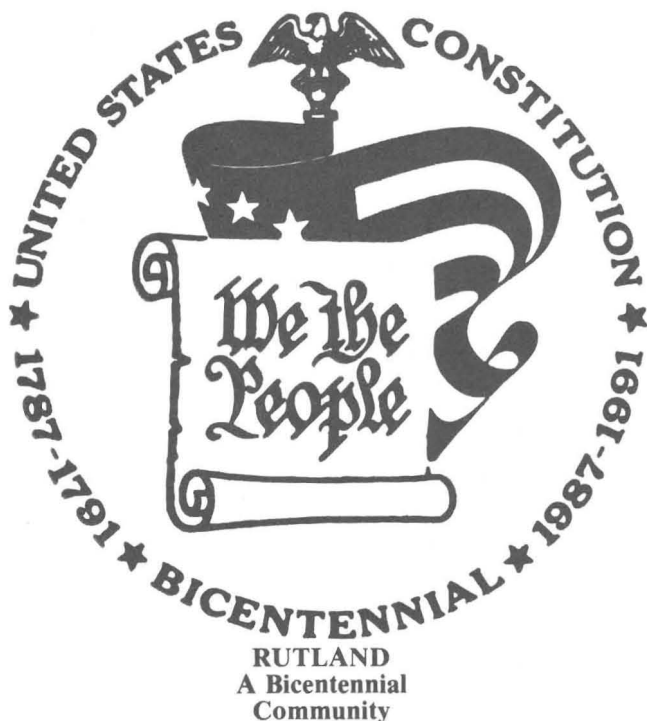


RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly

VOLUME XVII No. 3

1987



TWO RIVERS OF HISTORY

AMERICA AND VERMONT, 1775-1791

BY

TOM KIERAN EGAN

Bibliography is lengthy; available on request. Author Egan wrote and designed JOHN Q. CITIZEN—Summer 1978; OUR CALIFORNIA CONNECTION—Winter 1979; THE SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN—Summer 1983; contributed to other previous Quarterlies.

AMERICA RIVER

VERMONT RIVER

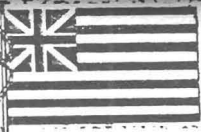
1775

31 OCTOBER: Seth Warner and Green Mountain Rangers defeated British under General Carleton and, by 13 November, Montreal was taken. Rangers returned home while Montgomery moved on Quebec.

21 NOVEMBER: Westminster meeting chose officers for VT militia regiments.

10 DECEMBER: C/Army Colonel Henry Knox left Fort Ticonderoga to begin the transport of 60 tons of artillery, captured by the Green Mountain Boys, to relieve the British siege of Boston.

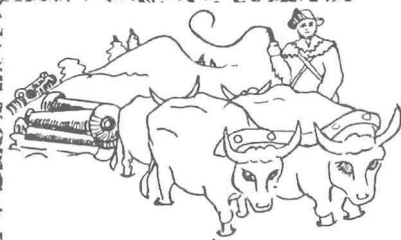
31 DECEMBER: While a feint maneuver by VT's Ira Allen and Robert Cochran against Cape Diamond was unsuccessful distraction, General Montgomery died in the attack on Quebec and Arnold was badly wounded. Continental forces, under Gen. David Wooster, went into winter quarters near the St. Lawrence River.



01 JANUARY: Washington unfurled first thirteen-stripe flag at Cambridge.

1776

JANUARY-FEBRUARY: General Thomas replaced General Wooster, later died of smallpox. General John Sullivan took over. C/Army of 3000 reduced to 900 by disease and desertions. There was an appeal for reinforcements; 417 Vermonters arrived in February.



10 JANUARY: Colonel Knox's "noble train of artillery" crossed from New York into Massachusetts.

16 JANUARY: Westsiders, meeting at Cephas Kent's Tavern in Dorset, composed an appeal to C/Congress that that body judge the dispute with NY after the war. Heman Allen (brother of Ethan and Ira) was sent to Philadelphia to present it. It is germane to note that some members of NY delegation to C/Congress (Livingston, Duane, etc.) were speculators in NY claims on Vermont real estate. The VT appeal had national significance because it expressed the same basis for freedom that appeared later in Declaration of Independence by C/Congress.

AMERICA RIVER

1776

VERMONT RIVER



24 JANUARY: In Cambridge, Washington was presented with Vermonter-captured artillery by Col. Knox and his gallant men. These cannon were then moved to Dorchester Heights.

17 MARCH: The Irish in General Washington's army had a special reason to celebrate this Saint Patrick's Day because, under the guns captured by the Vermonters ten months earlier, British General Howe evacuated Boston.

08 MAY: Heman Allen presented VT's petition before C/Congress. Although studied by a committee of delegates from southern states not involved in NY real estate intrigue, it ordered VT to submit to NY until the end of the war. Rather than risk NY victory, Allen withdrew VT's petition before it was voted by the entire C/Congress.

21 JUNE: Eastsiders, in convention at Westminster to choose delegates to NY convention, suggested they might prefer to be part of the MA instead of NY.

JUNE: General Sullivan replaced by General Gates. C/Army, at Crown Point and Fort Ti, consolidated at the latter to face Brit General Carleton's army moving south from Canada.

18 JUNE: C/Army, under General Sullivan, retired from Canada to Crown Point, NY

24 JULY: Westsiders convened at Kent's Tavern and approved Heman Allen's adroitness in Philadelphia—endorsed the concept of Independence for thirteen states as a *group* but not NY as an individual—suggested that VT be considered a "Separate District"—formulated "Articles of Association" for all VT towns. Later, these were adopted by all towns, including the Eastsiders.

04 JULY: C/Congress adopted our Declaration of Independence.

22 AUGUST: Brit. Gen. Howe landed 10,000 men on Long Island. After battle, Gen. Washington withdrew to New York City.

14 SEPTEMBER: Americans left New York City and beat British at Harlem Heights.

25 SEPTEMBER: This convention at Kent's Tavern in Dorset had delegates from 44 Eastside and Westside towns. The 24 July statement was reaffirmed with stronger language. All NY laws were abolished. A committee was appointed to seek admission, as a state, to the Confederation. A covenant was composed, to be signed by all VT males age 16.

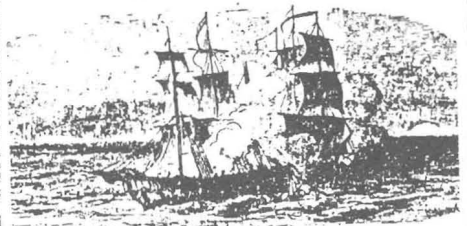
22 SEPTEMBER: Nathan Hale executed by Brits.

18 NOVEMBER: Americans retreated across NJ toward PA.

11-13 OCTOBER: Brit naval victory on Lake Champlain.



BUILDING WAR-VESSELS ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN.



AMERICA RIVER

1776

VERMONT RIVER

08 DECEMBER: Using Glover's boatmen from Marblehead, MA, Washington's forces crossed the Delaware River into PA.



25 DECEMBER: Washington's surprise victory at Trenton, NJ.

1777

03 JANUARY: American victory at skirmish near Princeton.

15 JANUARY: At another meeting, Vermonters used the word "State" for the first time while appointing a committee to draw up a declaration of independence from NY. This new state would be called "New Connecticut."

APRIL: At its Constitutional Convention, NY nullified many of the grants of land held by Vermonters.

11 APRIL: A letter was received from Doctor Thos. Young addressed as follows: "To the Inhabitants of *Vermont*, a True and Independent State bordering on the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain." This is considered the basis for the name of the state. Later it became known as "The Republic of Vermont."



02 JULY: At a convention held in Elijah West's Tavern in Windsor, presided over by Joseph Bowker of Rutland, deliberations lasted until 8th July. Outcome was Vermont's Declaration of Independence. Because Pennsylvania's Constitution was available, some changes (like abolition of slavery and universal manhood suffrage) were made to it and it was adopted.

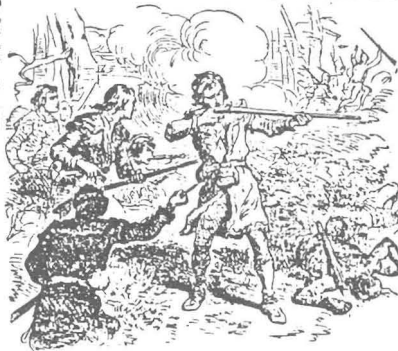


08 JULY: Word was received at Vermont's Independence Convention that, on 2 July, General Burgoyne's 9000 men had captured Fort Ti. This spread fear for the safety of the new republic.

AMERICA RIVER

VERMONT RIVER

1777



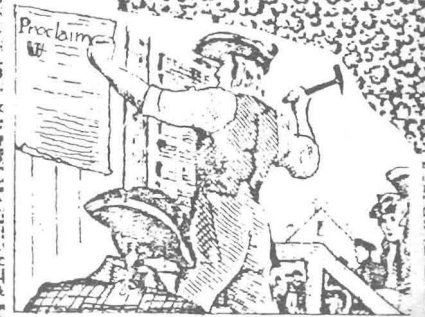
06-07 JULY: Gen. St. Clair escaped with 3,500 men and headed for Castleton. Three of his Colonels—Warner (VT), Francis (MA), Hale (NH) rested their forces at Hubbardton. Brit Gen. Fraser, in hot pursuit, came on Hale's stragglers. Attacking before dawn of the 7th, he routed Hale's force but Warner rallied. Then, German mercenary Riedesel's force arrived to support the Brits Col. Francis was killed. Warner ordered the survivors to disperse and gather in Manchester.

In this only battle on Vermont soil, American losses were 325 dead and wounded to 200 combined Brit and German losses. The haste and ferocity of this battle were such that the wounded were left behind by both sides.

Five days later, forced to travel the longer way, through Rutland, St. Clair's 1700 men arrived at Ft. Miller on the Hudson River south of Burgoyne's main force at Whitehall. There, he joined with Gen. Schuyler.

30 JULY: Very significant to VT affairs, George Clinton (cousin and namesake of the royal governor) was elected Governor of New York.

31 JULY: LaFayette volunteered his services; C/Congress made him Major-General.



04 AUGUST: Because so many New Englanders refused to serve under Yorker General Schuyler, who held vast real estate in VT, C/Congress replaced him with General Horatio Gates.

MID-JULY to MID-AUGUST: Brit Gen. Burgoyne issued proclamation to all able bodied men, "Report to Col. Skene at Castleton or be shot." Many took oath to save their farms. When taken by Col. Warner as traitors and were sent to Bennington, they retracted and swore opposite allegiance. Because there was great uneasiness at the approach of Burgoyne's large force, much rolling equipment as well as horses and cattle were brought south toward Bennington. This set up the military information to Burgoyne where he'd find help for his dwindling supply line.

Faced with this Brit threat, VT turned to NH and MA for assistance; it was considered useless to appeal to NY. Considering VT a buffer to its own safety, NH summoned John Stark from self retirement, after C/Congress overlooked him while promoting officers with lesser combat experience. With it understood that he'd be answerable only to NH, he recruited 1500 men. MA responded with several hundred under a Parson Thomas Allen. 400 Vermonters were already assembled in Manchester. This was a formidable force to resist the expected Brit attack.

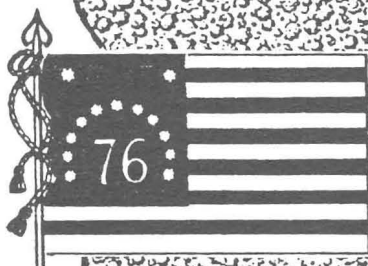
11 AUGUST: With instructions to go to Bennington and spread panic along the way, to bring back 1,300 horses plus cattle and other supplies, Lt. Col. Friederich Baum set out with 650 men, including a band. He expected to meet, at most, the remnants of Col. Warner's men dispersed after Hubbardton. By the 13th, the Brit mercenaries were in Cambridge. The next day, in the Walloomsac and Hoosack rivers area, they came on the fringe of Stark's men; neither side had any idea of the forces behind this touch. But, with weapons useless in the heavy rain on the 15th, Stark summoned Warner from Manchester while Baum sent word back that brought in more mercenaries under Col. Breyman. It is interesting that, for the battle the next day, these reinforcements moved the same number of miles and arrived at the same time for its second phase.



AMERICA RIVER

1777

VERMONT RIVER



16 AUGUST: At mid-day, the rain stopped. Then took place a battle that has no equal in all military history; never had a force of untried irregulars inflicted such an overwhelming defeat against a trained, professional adversary. At the cost of 30 killed and 5 wounded, the Americans killed 200 and took 700 prisoners including 30 officers.

Purist historians say, truthfully, that this battle took place in Hoosick, NY, that most of the victors came from NH and MA; but the battle was *for* supplies in Bennington, VT. As he moved south, Burgoyne wrote, "Like a gathering storm on my left, are the most active and rebellious race on this continent." In this sense, the Green Mountain Republic was a very significant factor in the Brit debacle that began at Saratoga a month later.

11 SEPTEMBER: Washington defeated at Brandywine.

20-21 SEPTEMBER: Cornwallis occupied Philadelphia.



LATE AUGUST: Learning from the Hubbardton-Bennington experience, VT recruited its own defense force called Herrick's Rangers. The cost was paid from the sale of property confiscated from Brit sympathizers. This practice continued for many years to the point that the new Republic was more solvent than the Confederation.



SEPTEMBER: Native Americans, on Brit provocation, attacked VT as far south as Pittsford.

04 OCTOBER: Americans defeated at Germantown.



17 OCTOBER: After the second Battle of Saratoga, the Brit General Gentleman John Burgoyne surrendered his army to the Americans.

15 NOVEMBER: Articles of Confederation sent to States for consideration.

18 DECEMBER: Americans set up winter quarters at Valley Forge.

YEAR-END, 1777: Governor Clinton of NY, on the assumption that all of VT was part of his state, began issuing all sorts of orders to VT. Because these were disregarded, Clinton effectively influenced the C/Congress to grant no military protection to that area.

AMERICA RIVER

1778

VERMONT RIVER

18 JUNE: Brits evacuated Philadelphia. Americans left Valley Forge.



28 JUNE: Brits defeated at Monmouth. Molly Pitcher made sergeant the next day.

19-24 JULY: Articles of Confederation signed by 10 States.



29 DECEMBER: Brits captured Savannah.



SPRING: VT began building block-houses against attacks from the north. Headquarters for this northern frontier was Fort Ranger in Rutland.

Politically, "Republic of Vermonters" held a scant majority over the opposition coalition—Eastiders who proclaimed themselves as Yorkers and their affection for Governor Clinton of New York; Eastiders who showed similar affection for New Hampshire President Mischeck Weare. (Author's note: East of capital Concord, are several small towns like East Weare, Weare Center—so many that nearby wits speak of Under Weare!); a prolific letter-writer from Marlboro, Charles Phelps, who urged part of VT go to MA; those, called the Dartmouth Group, who advocated a union of Eastiders and NY westside!

03 MARCH: Freeman's Meetings held in towns throughout the Republic.

12 MARCH: Legislature met at Windsor and, "Under the laws of God and Connecticut", elected Thomas Chittenden as Governor.

As Chittenden took office, he had this situation: NH angry on the east because Eastiders' efforts to take towns on the other side of the Connecticut River; MA unfriendly on the south because of old claims; NY furious on the west at disobedience to its rightful authority; the Brits, in Canada and Lake Champlain, in active warfare; the Continental Congress, between annoyance and anger, as Gov. Clinton and others manipulated it.

31 MAY: Col. Ethan Allen released from imprisonment.

22 OCTOBER: VT Legislature renounced its claim to NH towns; Governor Weare still upset.

NOVEMBER: Brit ships shelled Middlebury and Orwell from Lake Champlain.



1779

BACKGROUND NOTE

A lightly mentioned item in our history is a bravura demonstration of diplomatic adeptness by inexperienced Vermonters matching cunning with Englishmen, long trained in the Brit tradition in wily statecraft.

Viewed from our present 1980s era when our state department was embarrassed by the Falkland/Malvinas/Grenada episodes, currently in the dilemma of a special treaty with England to negate protections specific in our Constitution, it is astonishing to observe VT's nimbleness and deliberate obfuscation in what has been called "The Haldimand Episode."

While VT brazened it out with MA, NH, NY, on three sides, it needed a different style of bluff when dealing with Philadelphia and London. Its posture, delicately balanced, was difficult and dangerous: an independent Republic seeking to join the Union or, a spurned suitor, willing to become an ally of Britain? This exercise in dichotomy would make the Brits refrain from military action against VT while forcing the C/Congress to choose between admitting VT to the Union or contending with a divisive Brit wedge on the east side of Champlain. Added to this ploy, which had treasonous overtones, there had to be the third attitude: truculence toward MA, NH, NY to maintain constant attention in the C/Congress. In the light of the above, the incidents that follow take on a purposeful significance.

AMERICA RIVER

VERMONT RIVER

1779

11 FEBRUARY: The VT General Assembly began writing a code of laws for the Republic.

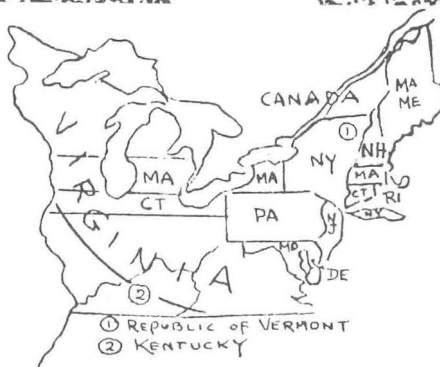
26 FEBRUARY: As ordered by the General Assembly, Gov. Chittenden wrote to Capt. John Smith to continue at his post in Rutland "so that the frontier be not left bare."

24 MAY: Rebellion on Eastside was put down by Ethan Allen with a force of 100 men. Two days later, the prisoners were tried by a court in Westminster. This was reported to Governor Clinton of NY who complained to the C/Congress.

16 JUNE: C/Congress ordered VT to release all prisoners. VT replied, "We have no prisoners."

LATE JUNE: C/Congress, concentrating on war with Britain, was distracted by NY-VT war, NH-VT war, MA-VT war. Congressmen from NJ and PA came to VT to confer with Gov. Chittenden; rather than budging, he urged statehood. Meanwhile, Jonas Fay and Paul Spooner arrived in PA and, using offense strategy, demanded copies of all charges against VT. Surprisingly, the request was granted.

24 JULY: Countering NY's earlier claim, NH asked C/Congress for all VT.



24 SEPTEMBER: Recognizing VT as a threat to "the internal peace of the United States," MA, NH, NY were ordered by the C/Congress to pass their own laws that would permit the C/Congress to make a final judgement in this territory-jurisdictional dispute. Action deadline was 01 Feb. 1780. NH and NY complied. MA delayed, then claimed all land (including NY) to the Pacific!

20 OCTOBER: At its General Assembly in Manchester, this reply was composed, "Since Vermont is not yet a state, the C/Congress has no authority over it."

1780

01 FEBRUARY: C/Congress deadline came with no action.

02 JUNE: After a deluge of letters from Yorkers in Eastside of VT, the C/Congress passed a resolution declaring VT behaviour subversive to peace in the United States. Judgement, promised four months earlier, extended to 19 September.

12 SEPTEMBER: Ira Allen and Stephen Bradley arrived at PA to deliver a letter from Gov. Chittenden, "If the United States doesn't want VT, we may negotiate with Britain."

24 SEPTEMBER: After lingering to observe C/Congress reaction, Vermonters walked out. On same day, word was received that Benedict Arnold had gone over to the British.

24 SEPTEMBER: Benedict Arnold turned traitor, escaped on British vessel *Vulture*.

27 SEPTEMBER: C/Congress proposed that "further consideration of the Vermont matter be postponed."



EARLY OCTOBER: Brits, under Carleton, raided Vermont. Tunbridge, Royalton, Randolph were destroyed.

29 OCTOBER: After Gov. Chittenden wrote to Brits proposing a truce for an exchange of prisoners, negotiations began at Castleton between Ira Allen and Gov. Gen. of Canada, Sir Frederick Haldimand. This session concluded with a peace pact between Vermont and the Brits that included the NY border of Lakes George and Champlain. Gov. Chittenden, constrained by a General Assembly that was uneasy about a return to the crown element in all this, openly appointed Joseph Fay to join with Ira Allen in followup dealing with the Brits. This had the desired effect in the C/Congress that VT would go over to the Brits.

09 NOVEMBER: Vermonters met with Brit agents and Canada was agreed to be the place of next meeting. With winter an excuse for delay, date was set for spring of 1781.

15 JANUARY: Gov. Chittenden wrote to NY and several New England states asking for aid in the common defense. This had two good results: MA agreed to drop all claims if Vermont became part of the union. NY legislature, apprehensive at a possible Brit border where VT had been, voted a commission to study terms of relinquishment of NY claims. But Gov. Clinton resisted this; indeed, he was successful for ten more years.

JANUARY: Delegates from 40 towns along the CT River held a convention which returned Eastside VT to NH. Then Ira Allen arrived and persuaded a reversal that brought NH towns to VT.

APRIL: Vermont legislature admitted 34 NH towns. Moreover, NY towns advised to hold a preliminary convention if they wished admission to VT.

11 FEBRUARY: Copy of a letter, from Lord Germaine in London to Brit Gen. Clinton, describing a campaign with VT as an ally, was found on a ship captured by the French. It got to Benj. Franklin in Paris who sent it to the C/Congress. This caused great concern over seriousness of VT intentions.

01 MARCH: Final ratification of Articles of Confederation announced by order of Congress.

ARTICLES
OF
Confederation
AND
Perpetual Union
BETWEEN THE
S T A T E S
OF

NEW-HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, CONNECTICUT, NEW-YORK, NEW-JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH-CAROLINA, SOUTH-CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

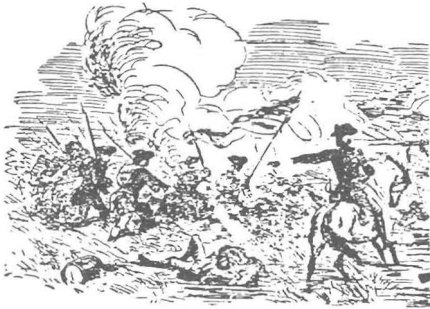


LANCASTER:
PRINTED BY FRANCIS BAILEY.
MDCCLXXVII.

AMERICA RIVER

1781

VERMONT RIVER



06 JULY: LaFayette attacked Cornwallis but repulsed.

09 MAY: VT and Brit delegations met on Isle aux Noix in northern Lake Champlain. Led by Ira Allen, three weeks of blather were aimed at an exchange of prisoners with an oblique consideration of an alliance. All the Brits gained was a promise that VT leaders would prepare the people for such an alliance. VT received a continuation of the truce until the June meeting of the Legislature.

JUNE: Brit agents attended the Bennington Assembly; so did observers from other states. NY towns, like Cambridge, were accepted into VT. Nothing official done about Brit alliance.

JULY: VT's alliance-dalliance of the Brits dragged out all summer until the harvest was in. Prisoners were doled out very slowly because (more bluff) most of the Brit prisoners had been sent to Gen. Washington who refused to return them to VT. For a 20 July meeting with the Brits, Ira Allen sent only an excuse. Finally, late in the month, Joseph Fay did show for a meeting on the *HMS Royal George* on Champlain. Fay then took two weeks to explain why there were so few prisoners and why pro-Brit sentiment was growing slowly in the Legislature. This won another delay "until after the state election."

31 JULY: A letter, from Lord Germaine to Sir Henry Clinton about the VT alliance, was read in the C/Congress. After immediate charges of treason, consideration swung to whether pushing VT could lead to loss of the northern frontier.

A committee was appointed to deal with Ira Allen, Jonas Fay and Bezaleel Woodward "respecting their claims to an independent state." The price for this consideration was the return of the recently acquired NH and NY towns. VT trio, fearing loss of the truce with the Brits and return to hostilities, fearing loss of leverage with the C/Congress for such a weak promise of statehood, declined the deal and went home.

25 AUGUST: American and French armies started, from Hudson River, for Yorktown.

AUGUST-OCTOBER: Brits had a new ultimatum: Gen. St. Leger would bring ships and 2000 men to Fort Ti during VT's October General Assembly to influence a favorable decision. VT reply was a promise to continue efforts in the same direction and a suggestion for assistance. Would the Governor General of Canada, Sir Frederick Haldimand, prepare a proclamation suitable for such a momentous decision? With this agreed to, the language had to be negotiated; indeed, the Brits embarked on a search for the proper captive to deliver the proclamation. In the course of the latter, a VT enlisted man was killed by a Brit soldier. Because negotiations were considered so delicate by the Brits, their apologies were so abject that suspicions were aroused at the General Assembly.



GENERAL LINCOLN RECEIVING CORNWALLIS'S SWORD FROM GENERAL O'HARA.

19 OCTOBER: Brit Gen. Charles Lord Cornwallis surrendered to our Gen. George Washington.

01 NOVEMBER: Finally, after an entire year of freedom from Brit attacks, VT negotiators were cornered between their own uneasy legislators and the hostile forces off Fort Ti. At that critical moment, word arrived of the surrender of the Brit army at Yorktown. St. Leger left Fort Ti for Canada.

15 NOVEMBER: Gov. Chittenden, who'd been visited by an aide to Gen. Washington, wrote to the General explaining VT's vulnerable position and the emptiness of the Brit campaign.

AMERICA RIVER

1782

VERMONT RIVER

JANUARY: Brattleboro area Yorkers sent another petition, to NY and C/Congress, complaining about the Republic.

JANUARY: Gen. Washington replied to Gov. Chittenden's letter pointing out the dangers in negotiating with the Brits, promised his support in the C/Congress if VT returned the NH and NY border towns and applied for statehood.

FEBRUARY: VT legislature after considering Gen. Washington's promise, cut off the NH and NY towns and awaited the invitation from the C/Congress.

01 MARCH: C/Congress passed a resolution to accept VT when NH and NY returns were made.

31 MARCH: Ira Allen and Jonas Fay arrived in Philadelphia with announcement that return of towns requirement was complied with.

14 APRIL: NY legislature passed an act that, in effect, put VT back to the early status as a NH grant; this would strip VT of its reason to be a separate entity.

17 APRIL: C/Congress voted to *table* its earlier motion to admit VT.

19 APRIL: Holland recognized American Independence.

11 JULY: Brits evacuated Savannah.



30 APRIL: With Brit war winding down, VT no longer a concern of C/Congress; with returned NH and NY towns no longer VT leverage with C/Congress, there remained the task of maintaining the posture of a separate Republic as strong as NY. First exercise began with handling an appeal, by the same Charles Phelps who was MA adherent four years earlier, to NY Gov. Clinton to govern Cumberland county — the largest county in the Republic. Eventually Phelps became Justice of the Peace and his son the Sheriff by NY authority. VT put the Phelps pair down as often as they rose. With every incident reported to Clinton in NY, with Clinton saber-rattling every time in the long and tedious bickering, the NY Governor's intransigence began to tilt matters in VT favor. This continued through the year.

14 DECEMBER: Brits evacuated Charleston.

AMERICA RIVER

1783

VERMONT RIVER

05 FEBRUARY: Sweden recognized American Independence.

25 FEBRUARY: Denmark recognized American Independence.

24 MARCH: Spain recognized American Independence.

12 JULY: Russia recognized American Independence.



A GENERAL PEACE.

NEW-YORK, March 25, 1783.

LATE last Night, an EXPRESS from New-Jersey, brought the following Account.

THAT on Sunday last, the Twenty Third Instant, a Vessel arrived at Philadelphia, in Thirty-five Days from Cadix, with Dispatches to the Continental Congress, informing them, that on Monday the Twentieth Day of January, the PRELIMINARIES TO

A GENERAL PEACE,

Between Great Britain, France, Spain, Holland, and the United States of America, were signed at Paris, by all the Commissioners from those Powers, in consequence of which, Hostilities, by Sea and Land, were to cease on

03 SEPTEMBER: Peace of American Victory in First War with British.

25 NOVEMBER: Brits evacuated New York City.

DECEMBER: C/Congress passed a resolution disapproving VT's behaviour toward NY. Robert Livingston of NY saw this as a split, between NH and NY, along the spine of the Green Mountains. George Washington disagreed, suggesting that VT might be pushed into Canada and the move defended by deserters from his army. Gov. Chittenden's comment was that VT's side had never been heard, that it was only VT's business anyway.

1784

03 JANUARY: Yorker Charles Phelps, returning from banishment, was arrested; thus, began another year of VT firmness toward NY.

1786

JANUARY: VT's Yorkers passed a bill to NY for all they'd suffered.

31 OCTOBER: A mob of "Regulators", led by Jonathan Fassett—a four term member of VT legislature, attacked Rutland County Court. Put down by militia, Fassett was expelled from the Assembly.

1787

25 MAY: The "Miracle at Philadelphia" began, with a quorum of delegates from 7 States, to revise the Articles of Confederation. With a maximum of 55 from 12 States, they wrote a document new to the world. "We, the People..." governed with separate and divided powers with checks and balances in exercise in authority.

We the People of the United States
do hereby establish this Constitution for the United States of America

17 SEPTEMBER: After a long, hot summer in closed rooms in Philadelphia, the collection of imperfect compromises was signed by 39 delegates from 12 States. This Constitution of the United States began an existence of two centuries as the model for the world!

AMERICA RIVER

1788

25 JUNE: Virginia became the tenth state to ratify the Constitution, but recommended a bill of rights for American citizens.

VERMONT RIVER

Alexander Hamilton

JULY: Judge Nathaniel Chipman hosted a group in Tinmouth to form political parties in the United States. A correspondent and supporter of leading Federalist Alexander Hamilton of NY, it was understood that VT, as a state, would endorse the Constitution.

1789



04 MARCH: At the first Congress under the new Constitution, VT was considered as a balance to offset slaveholding KY.

30 APRIL: George Washington, friendly to VT's entry as a state, was inaugurated as first President.

19 OCTOBER: Monday. NY appointed commissioners to meet with VT counterparts to settle the long dispute.

1790

28 OCTOBER: Thursday. VT agreed to a western boundary and agreed to pay NY \$30,000.

1791

17 JANUARY: Monday. Although not yet a state, VT ratified the U.S. Constitution; then drew up a petition for entry into the Union.



09 FEBRUARY: Extract from George Washington's message to Congress, "...the Territory of Vermont, that the said Territory shall be admitted to be a district member of our Union and a memorial of Nathaniel Chipman (Rutland)...I now lay before the Congress..."
After 14 years as a separate Republic, Vermont became the 14th State!

21 MARCH: *Vermont Gazette* published a story under the heading, CELEBRATION AT RUTLAND, March 8, 1791. It tells how the 1400 "federal citizens" began to celebrate (sic) in the town square at six o'clock in the morning. The lengthy, detailed account lists fifteen toasts drank under the discharge of fifteen cannon; and the five verses of a song written for the occasion; and it concludes with, "In the evening the ladies of the vicinity honored the youthful part of the company with their presence at a ball."



VERMONTERS, AT RUTLAND, WITH TWO-STAR, FIFTEEN-STRIPE FLAG

03 NOVEMBER: State of Vermont ratified the Bill of Rights.

15 DECEMBER: Virginia ratified the Bill of Rights, and the amendments became part of the U.S. Constitution.

AMERICA RIVER



RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
101 CENTER STREET, RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701
(802) 775-2006; 773-3417

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Please send any address change on Postal Service Form 3576 (a postcard freely available at your local post office).

Annual dues categories are:	Sustaining \$100 or more	Contributing \$15
	Sponsor \$ 25	Regular \$ 5

Special one-payment categories are:	Life \$125	Memorial \$150
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ISSN 0748-2493

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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